

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.**

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of the CT General Assembly:

Good afternoon. My name is Lina Cardona. I am a member of Uniting for a Safe Inclusive Community - Manchester. I'm in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

I support this legislation, because I have two girls who are affected by not having access to health insurance. On many occasions we have to limit ourselves when they are sick and take them to a hospital, due to the high cost. If they need additional care, the hospital staff takes care of us, but they are constrained when we tell them we don't have health insurance.

I have an experience to tell: due to this pandemic I was affected, since my entire family got COVID. We went to a medical center to perform the tests and the results were only delivered to us after 15 days. We were already improving when they got around to telling us that we had COVID. There was no medical follow-up, not for me and not for my daughters, and all this is because there is no medical insurance that can help provide better care.

I understand that we are immigrants, but like the citizens of this country we fulfill the duty to pay our taxes. Either way we are denied some benefits even though we have the same responsibilities.

I believe that having access to health insurance would be a great benefit to my family and my community, and we would have relief and not have to worry if our children are sick and we will be able to take them to places where they receive full attention.

Please support S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

Thank you for your time,

Lina Cardona  
Manchester, CT